



January 25, 2022

Meeting Minutes No: 2022-01

## **MANTOLOKING ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

### **Meeting held via Zoom**

Attendance:

<b>MEC/Green Team Members</b>	<b>Present?</b>
Barbara Hood Benz, Chair	Yes
Denise Boughton	No
John Mooney	Yes
Beth Nelson	Yes
Barbara Turro	Yes
John Wesson	Yes
<b>Green Team Members</b>	
Jan O'Malley	Yes
Peter Andruss	No

The meeting was called to order at approximately 5:35 PM. A quorum was present.

### **Meeting Minutes**

John Wesson made, and John Mooney seconded, a motion to accept the December 2021 meeting minutes that were emailed on 1/16/22 at 2:39 pm. The minutes were approved. John Wesson volunteered to take the February 2022 minutes.

### **Green Team Business →**

- Fall Sustainable Jersey PSE&G Grant Cycle: There was a long and detailed discussion on this agenda item as there is an application deadline of February 11, 2022. There is a subsequent deadline for delivery of a Borough Council resolution supporting the grant that Barbara B. will get on the Council agenda.

We expect to apply for the \$2,000 grant. The cost of any project must be worked out fully in the application and Barbara B. is actively collecting costs for elements of the grant.

- Resident Pamphlet: Environmental Advice for Landscaping/Construction. This is planned as an 8.5 x 11" color double-sided tri-fold. Cost estimate: \$500 based on prior experience with All Points.
- Purchase of seed packets for distribution during July 4<sup>th</sup> Townwide Event. There was substantial discussion about which seeds to obtain and how many. The end result is that we will go with the Pollinator Mix seed packet, currently available from Pinelands Nursery. It was decided to purchase 250 packets @ \$1.50 per packet. Cost estimate: \$375
- Dune plantings: The goal is to protect and sustain the back dunes. There was substantial discussion again, especially about how best to water the plants and protect them from rabbits. John W. offered to bring his rain barrel where no water is available. Beth Nelson pointed out that the next planned phase was to focus on flowering plants rather than shrubs. Beth will perform an inventory of what shrubs have survived as well as provide a recommended list of flowering plants for dunes and coastal plains in the mid-Atlantic region (ASAP). Barbara B. will work with Pinelands Nursery to obtain quotes. Cost Estimate: 45 plants @ \$15 each = \$675. Barbara B. will discuss with Scott Hulse of DPW



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bunny guard possibilities.

- C-Change Health Primer presentation. This is planned to be hosted at Mantoloking Yacht Club on July 21, 2022 subject to availability. Barbara B. will work with Lauren Fasolo. Cost Estimate: \$300
- Diane Lewis lecture. This is planned to be hosted at the Sacred Heart Church rectory on June 23, 2022, subject to cost and availability. Barbara B. will work with Marta Barkhausen from Sacred Heart. Cost Estimate: \$500+.
- Sustainable Jersey Update/Action Spreadsheet: Our current goal is to maintain Bronze status. There were no updates to the spreadsheet.

## **MEC Business →**

### **Planning Board**

- Beth Nelson was elected the new Planning Board chair.
- 915 Barnegat Lane: John Wesson mentioned that this topic is on the Planning Board agenda for February 3, 2022.
- Other Business: John W. briefed the Commission on recent/upcoming applications. The 1039 Ocean Ave application was withdrawn. There is an application for a variance at 1 Arnold St. to put a deck on top and increase the size of the second floor. Barbara B. had not yet received this application. Beth indicated that she would request Kaitlyn to be sure to send the MEC Chair planning board applications.

### **Japanese Black Pine & Crepe Myrtle Maintenance**

- Barbara B. asked if this item could be removed from the agenda. This was unresolved, but John W. indicated that he is in the process of removing some dead pines in his neighborhood and assumes residents will remove them on their properties when they return in the spring. John W. will continue care for the Crepe Myrtles. He enjoys trimming and watering.

### **ANJEC Climate Change Bill Guidance**

- There is an ANJEC Climate Bill Guidance Zoom seminar on January 27 at Noon. John M., Barbara T and Jan will attend.

### **Swan Point Oyster Array (*Preservation of Swan Point Project*)**

- There are no updates regarding this project, but some aerial photographs were taken at high tide and can be viewed on MEC Facebook page.

### **End of Year Report**

- Barbara B. has completed this.

### **MEC Facebook Since Last Meeting**

- No Events
- Posts since our last MEC meeting:
  - MEC is partnering with the Brick and Point Borough Environmental Commissions to obtain funding for Swan Point protection. Aerial photos over Swan Point were included.
  - Bateman Bill establishing Jersey Native Plants program



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- Recycled Content Bill request to contact Governor Murphy for him to sign the bill as written
- Recycling Christmas trees near Mantoloking
- Request that residents contact John Catalano, Gregory McGuckin, and James Holzapfel to support the Recycled Content Bill

#### **Updates on Other Initiatives (not included in grant application):**

- **OC Northern Recycling Center Tour for MEC/Green Team Members: (Spring 2022)**
  - Tours are still not allowed due to COVID.
- **Spring MEC/Green Team Newsletter (Spring 2022)**
  - Targeting April/May publication.
  - Barbara B. suggested that contributions to the newsletter by MEC/Green members would provide the newsletter with different perspectives.
  - Input from members on possible topics/authors will be placed on the February meeting agenda.
- **Walking Tour combining Green Stormwater Management Education with Native Gardens Education: (Spring 2022)**
  - Setting a date should balance when there are blooms with when there are people around. Barbara T will speak with Beth N. Perhaps Memorial Day timeframe.
- **Beach Clean-up (April 9, 2022)**
  - We will participate with COA again.

#### **New Topics:**

- **NJ Community Tree Recovery:**
  - Claudia Larsen forwarded an email containing the application for this program. We haven't participated since 2020 when it was cancelled due to COVID-19.
  - It was agreed that we would take 100 seedlings.
  - Barbara B. will speak to Scott Hulse regarding our desire to pick them up on Thurs., 4/21 and distribute them to the public on Earth Day, Fri., 4/22.
  - Barbara B. will complete the application and send it to the DEP NJ Forest Service Nursery contact for this program, Alec McCartney.

#### **MEC/Green Team Goals for 2022**

The following 2022 goals were briefly discussed and finalized.

- Hold an educational event on Climate Change and Health with C-Change Conversations group.
- Hold an educational event on water quality with Diane Lewis, author of **The Great Healthy Yard Project: Our Yards, Our Children, Our Responsibility.**
- Update the ERI recommendations.
- Work to retain Bronze level with Sustainable New Jersey.
- Progress the Swan Point project.
- Conduct a feasibility study on an EV charging station.
- Continue to educate residents on use of native plants and pollinators.
- Expand MEC/Green Team outreach and membership.



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**Attended Educational Events:**

- **ANJEC Storm Flooding in New Jersey: Improving Stormwater Management & Preparedness**, 1/20/22, 4 – 5:15 PM. Barbara B., Barbara T., John M.
- **2022 Sustainable Jersey Grants Cycle Program**; 12/13 1 – 2 pm. Barbara B.

**Upcoming Educational Events:**

- Rutgers: **NOAA's Work to Foster Sustainable Marine Aquaculture**; Thursday, February 24 from 6:30 -8:00 PM.
- Rutgers: **Introductory Fisheries Science for Stakeholders (IFISSH) 2022 Course**; Zoom webinar on Tuesday evenings (6:30 - 9:00 PM) starting February 1 and through April 5.
- NJ Sustainability Summit at Bell Works, Holmdel, 6/24, 8 am – 4 pm

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm. **Our next meeting will be via Zoom on Tues., 2/22/22 at 5:30 pm.**